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TO: Secretary of State

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Survey of some FGTB leaders (De Bock, De Bunne, Latin, Major de Keyzer, Everling, Jansen) indicates Socialist labor shares pleasure of party leaders with election results. According to these trade unionists, socialist gains can largely be attributed to active FGTB campaigning, and therefore party leaders owe debt to labor wing which if not payable at present can be held over for any future government in which Socialists participate. Little fear of one-party leadership felt since FGTB chiefs believe PSC must now shoulder responsibilities of government without opportunity of blaming future failures on Socialists or Liberals as was case in last two coalitions.

Because Socialists made greatest proportional gains in election, and PSC won only narrow majority, FGTB leaders believe resistance would be justified in social fields should "extreme solution" be applied to royal question (e.g. unconditional return of King). None of FGTB leaders, however, with exception of Major, who is inclined to anticipate worst from PSC, believes extreme solution will be taken and almost all express confidence in attaining compromise. Significant that talk of general strike so common during last three months, has now died down through combination of fatigue and general optimism regarding satisfactory solution to Leopold issue. At same time, strike threat obviously can be taken from shelf and again used as effective instrument if suitable compromise not reached.

Catholic trade unionists (Cool, Keuleers, Van Wesemael) also shared spirit of optimism concerning Leopold solution. They congratulate themselves on having won majority for PSC and now intend to use influence with party leaders to obtain social concessions from government. Least that CSC hopes to gain from PSC allies in Cofina administration is some further emphasis on family allowances and other family benefits.

Both Catholic and Socialist trade unionists admit that politically it is too early to see any distance ahead, and therefore impressions and hopes are all that are available at present.

MURPHY

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